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Office of Public Instruction
Ed Argenbright
Superintendent

NOVEMBER 1988

OPI Submits Fiscal Note, Recommendations on Board of Public Education's Project Excellence Accreditation Standards

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ed Argenbright has submitted a revised fiscal note on the Board of Public Education's proposed Project Excellence accreditation standard changes. The updated cost figures, amended to address inflationary factors announced by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, indicate that the cost of implementing Project Excellence standards would be approximately $199 million over the next ten years.

Argenbright also expressed other concerns about accreditation standard changes proposed by the Board which would add administrative and other support staff such as guidance counselors and librarians. He pointed to the increased work load for teachers, especially in small schools, who would have to write the mandated curriculum. He added that the proposed standards confuse goals with rules and that school and OPI staff will have difficulty interpreting exactly what the Board had in mind.

Argenbright said, "Project Excellence has produced some excellent curriculum goals, but the implementation and rule making procedures are not appropriate. I will not be recommending adoption of the complete set of standards to the Board, because they are not educationally sound."

Helena Schools Receive $20,000 U S WEST Foundation Grant

The Helena School District has received a major grant from the U S WEST Foundation to increase availability of a program designed to place children just entering school in an educational environment based on learning ability instead of chronological age.

The $20,000 grant will fund preparation and training material for Helena's new Developmental Primary Program, making the program available to other districts in Montana and the Northwest.

Programs evaluating development of children entering school have been available for a number of years and are in place at other locations in Montana. The Helena project will establish a training and information center to expand and improve these evaluation programs. Trained Helena school staff will provide consultant and training services to others interested in similar approaches to evaluating learning abilities.

The U S WEST Foundation joins Apple Computer in underwriting the program. Apple is providing equipment, software and technical assistance. The U S WEST Foundation grant will fund additional training, printed and video material, and evaluation.

For more information contact Barbara Ranf, U S WEST Foundation, 441-3548; Karen Sexton, Principal, Lincoln-Ray Bjork School, Helena, 442-7750; or Brad Morris, Principal, Rossiter School, Helena, 458-5001.

Outstanding School Principals Honored

Fifty-nine elementary and middle school principals have been selected as 1988 "National Distinguished Principals" by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

"These principals are leaders," U.S. Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos said, "who have fostered teamwork and a spirit of cooperation among students, staff and parents. They have built a community-wide commitment to learning and an enthusiasm for excellence. They have shown us how to create effective schools, and they deserve our highest praise."

Samuel Sava, Executive Director of NAESP, said, "From across this nation and abroad, from school districts large and small, rich and poor, these 59 men and women share a common knowledge—they know how to manage a school where children succeed. They are national treasures."

The National Distinguished Principals program was initiated in 1984 to recognize the crucial role that elementary and middle school principals play in shaping the character and quality of children's education.

Montana's award winner was Stan Rathman, Principal at Choteau Elementary School.

The principals were recently recognized by the Department of Education at an awards banquet in Washington, D.C. where each received an award certificate and an engraved school bell.

Secondary School Recognition Program

In August each secondary school principal received an application and explanation of the 1988-89 Secondary School Recognition Program.

In October a reminder was mailed to all superintendents of the November 23 deadline for nomination forms to be submitted to the Office of Public Instruction.

For additional nomination forms or more information contact Gile Mitchell at 444-2089.

CELEBRATE!

American Education Week
November 13-19, 1988

"Apples for the Students"

Supermarket chains in 20 U.S. markets across the country are joining in a unique partnership for education with school volunteer groups and professional educators to put more computers at the fingertips of America's school children. The "Apples for the Students" program is designed to permit community-spirited supermarket organizations to provide—at no cost to the schools or the school taxpayer—an estimated $25 million worth of computers, curriculum-designed software and teacher training during the 1988-89 school year.

At the heart of the program are the supermarket's cash register tapes. Schools and their PTO/PTA volunteer groups encourage parents and their friends and relatives to shop at the stores of the supermarket offering the "Apples for the Students" program and to send their register tapes to school. The tapes are picked up periodically by the PTO/PTA organization, totaled and turned over to the chain's Program Coordinator. The total sales dollars registered on the tapes are credited to that school's "account" for redemption of computers, printers and software. When the required dollar amount of tapes has been submitted, an Apple Computer or software package of the school's choice is awarded to the school.

School districts and school volunteer groups interested in finding out how "Apples for the Students" can be made available in their communities should contact Peter Jarvis at Service Marketing Group, 300 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, NY 11530. Phone: (516) 747-7111.

Calendar

Nov. 5—Montana Alliance for Arts Education Annual Meeting, Great Falls, Janet Athwal, 444-4442
Nov. 7—Western States Certification Conference, Reno, NV, Dr. John Voorhis, 444-3150
Nov. 9—National FFA Convention, Kansas City, MO, Leonard Lombardi, 444-4451
Nov. 13-19—American Education Week
Dec. 1-2—Board of Public Education, Great Falls, Claudette Morton, 444-6576

MISSING CHILDREN INFORMATION

The following is the State Dept. of Justice's most current list of missing Montana children and teenagers (age 14 and under). For details on the Missing Children Program, call Bill Erwin, Dept. of Justice, Helena, 444-3625. (PD=Police Dept.; SO=Sheriff's Office; TP=Tribal Police.) If you are uncertain about the status of a student in your school who is not on this list, call the Dept. of Justice.

NAME	SEX	RACE	DOB	AGE	HT/WT	HAIR	EYES	STATION
Adams, Geralyn	F	I	070774	14	504/120	BRO	BRO	Polson
Allen, Mary Lee	F	W	072573	14	504/140	BRO	BRO	Libby
Butcher, Joseph	M	W	080281	7	400/50	BLN	BLU	Dept. of Justice
Butcher, Nathan	M	W	030283	5	305/40	BLN	BLU	Dept. of Justice
Clark, Dolana	F	W	021079	9	405/52	BLN	BLU	Great Falls
Gilbert, Leila	F	W	050980	8	403/65	BRO	BRO	Dept. of Justice
Hanson, Dannielle	F	I	070883	5	307/40	BRO	BRO	Dept. of Justice
McDonald, Thomas	M	W	050376	12	500/110	BRO	BRO	Polson
Pebles, Angela	F	W	101175	13	503/115	BLN	BLU	Missoula
Root, Shaun	M	W	080477	11	406/75	BRO	BRO	Hamilton
Root, Laura	F	W	062079	9	406/75	BLN	BRO	Hamilton
Shaw, Ryan	M	W	052374	14	600/170	RED	XXX	Polson
Windels, Dannielle	F	I	070883	5	307/50	BRO	BRO	Dept. of Justice

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